

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. with Norman Winkler, Chairman, Warren Norris, Gerald Mohr, Janet Kile, Bruce Levi, Kevin Spilman, Jerry Kent, Leigh Morning, Attorney, and Deborah Adams, Auditor in attendance.

Chairman, Norman Winkler called the meeting to order. Minutes of the January 12, 2011 meeting were approved on a motion by Gerald Mohr, seconded by Bruce Levi. Motion carried.

ECDC

Jim Finan, the new E.C.D.C. Director, introduced himself to the council. Finan informed the council that he is looking forward to working with Rushville and developing the Rush County Market. Finan reminded everyone that his door is always open.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton, Highway Superintendent, sought approval to proceed with advertising for an additional appropriation of \$225,000.00 Sitton informed the council that this funding would allow the ROW portion of the Carthage Pike project. Sitton explained in detail the last phase of the project to the council members. Jerry Kent made the motion to schedule the additional appropriation to be advertised and addressed during the March 12, 2011 meeting. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sitton updated the council on the Moscow Covered Bridge. Sitton reported that the bridge is paid in full and has a ten (10) ton approved weight limit.

Sitton reported that the Cum Bridge funds are down and that the past two (2) years have been financially tight for the highway department as a whole.

HEALTH

Terri Nigh, Health Dept Secretary, reported that the health department vehicle transmission went out. The department is seeking an additional appropriation of \$1,200.00 from the Health Maintenance Tobacco Fund #107. Bruce Levi made the motion to schedule the additional appropriation to be advertised and addressed during the March 12, 2011 meeting. Jerry Kent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reno Gosser, Part-time Environmentalist, spoke to the council regarding his recent reduction of working hours and hourly wage. Gosser informed the council that his hours have now been reduced from the previous five (5) days a week to now working three (3) days a week. Gosser asked that the council give reconsideration for the environmentalist position when the county is on a more solid ground.

After further discussion the council did inform Gosser that his position and pay from the Tobacco funds was a proposal from the Health board. This was with the understanding that the

position when returned to being funded from the general fund would be part-time and the part-time hourly rate of \$10.50. Gosser noted that he felt that the position requires a better hourly pay rate than \$10.50

RUSH MEMORIAL AMBULANCE

Brad Smith, CEO of Rush Memorial Hospital, appeared before the council to report on the 2010 financials of the Rush Memorial Ambulance. Smith provided and reviewed the 2010 unaudited financial statement, 2011 Budget and Department Volume Report with the council members. Smith made note that Rush Memorial Ambulance came in under budget by \$198,000.00. The accumulative total cash available for future ambulance expenses as December 31, 2010 was \$382,561.00. Smith noted that they have budgeted a subsidy of approximately \$471,000.00 for this year ending 2011.

Discussion was held on ambulance and equipment replacement cost. Smith indicated that he did not foresee replacement in the immediate future. Discussion was also held that all are working together to reduce the subsidy that started at \$800,000.00 and is not \$650,000.00

Jerry Kent did make comment that Smith has worked hard and has been very positive. Norman Winkler questioned Smith as to the range of pay for the EMT's. Smith will bring the information to the next meeting.

SHERIFF

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, reported an inmate count of forty-three (43) currently incarcerated in the Rush County jail of which fourteen (14) are sentenced and twenty-nine (29) are pre-sentenced.

Sherwood discussed the new vehicles he planned to purchase for 2011. Sherwood explained that they will be the two (2) Police package pick-up trucks at \$21,000 and with options \$22,000.00.

Sherwood is also purchasing one officer car. Sherwood explained that he is paring up with Shelby County and will purchase a Crown Victoria out of Illinois. The \$5,000.00 insurance check from Dahl Petry's totaled car plus the trade in will bring the total cost of all three vehicles to a little over \$60,000.00.

Sherwood explained when questioned that other counties have successfully used the trucks. Rush County will be receiving a half ton, quad cab, 4-wheel drive trucks. The vehicles will arrive around the first of June and funding has been discussed with the auditor as the county can do an advance draw.

Sherwood explained that he has spoken to State Board of Accounts field representative Robin White regarding sheriff sales fees. The money must go back into the general fund to offset the vehicle. Leigh Morning will research the code further.

Sherwood advised the council members that due to the recent ice storms he needed to call in extra deputies and dispatchers. This will result in an increase in over-time expense.

E-911

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff/ 911 Director, reported that the February 1, 2011 switch over has been postponed to February 17, 2011

AMBULANCE STUDY COMMITTEE

Jerry Kent reported that the members of the Ambulance Study Committee are Brad Smith, Verlin Custer, Chuck Jenkins, Jeff Sherwood, Bruce Levi and himself.

Kent reported on their first meeting as being good general discussion, how each individual agreed to work to keep personalities and territories out of the conversations. Kent stated that first and foremost the county must decide what is the level of service that the county wants to fund. Other areas of discussion were:

- Rushville Fire Department has stepped up to the plate to offer their assistance. Chuck Jenkins will prepare figures
- Hire a 3rd party neutral consultant
- Rush Memorial Hospital is willing to provide any level that we want
- Rushville Fire Department goes to almost every run with the exception of a couple nursing homes, figure how to incorporate
- Bruce Levi stressed that Quality of Service is what must be decided
- Brad Smith discussed Paramedic runs, advance or basic assessments, protocols and run reports
- Chuck Jenkins commented that a third party person will really be able to dig into the situation and advise everyone as a whole
- Jerry Kent and Bruce Levi together are pleased with what the committee has started, now only to figure out how to fund it
- Brad Smith stated that there are two (2) or three (3) sets of protocols out there, and too many playing physicians. Brad does not set protocols, need an umbrella for the protocols, where all follow the same set of protocols set by a physician.
- Chuck Jenkins shared his concern was as to who is holding the umbrella

REASSESSMENT

Deborah Adams, Auditor, explained to the council that due to preparation of reassessment the DLGF did not approve the budget for the Reassessment fund #99. The \$233,448.00 council approved budget has a December 31, 2010 fund balance of \$70,394.24. Adams explained that the council already knew in September that they would be funding a portion of the Reassessment budget for 2011. Her concern was that this was not accounted for during their submitted cuts to the state. Adams asked for two council members to join her for this research. Jerry Kent and Kevin Spilman volunteered to assist.

Adams did advise that the \$70,394.24 fund balance would need to be adopted as an additional appropriation to utilize as a beginning 2011 budget. Indiana Code dictates the

remaining budget balance of \$163,053.76 must be funded from the 2011 General fund. Jerry Kent made the motion to proceed with the advertising of the additional appropriation to be approved during the March 9, 2011 council meeting. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adams explained that the state did not certify a rate for the Reassessment 2017 Fund. The anticipated levy to be raised was \$74,715.00. In a nut shell we have another “health dept” where the levy was tossed to the general fund, hence no rate. The county can either, cut the general fund balance by the \$74,715.00 and place this in the Reassessment 2017 fund, pull the revenue from elsewhere, or absorb it over the next few years. Adams did explain that the general fund and reassessment are under the same maximum levy.

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Bruce Levi. Warren Norris seconded the motion, motion carried.

<u>/s/Norman Winkler</u>	<u>/s/Warren Norris</u>	<u>/s/Gerald Mohr</u>
Norman Winkler, Chairman	Warren Norris	Gerald Mohr

<u>/s/Janet Kile</u>	<u>/s/Bruce Levi</u>	<u>/s/Kevin Spilman</u>
Janet Kile	Bruce Levi	Kevin Spilman

/s/Jerry Kent
Jerry Kent

ATTEST:

/s/Deborah C. Adams
Deborah C. Adams, Auditor